

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN SEPTEMBER 2005

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in September of 62,800 metric tons (t) was about 9% less than that in August and about 2% more than that in September 2004, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Estimated smelter production of 17,900 t of refined zinc was about 10% more than in August and about 26% less than that in September 2004. Apparent consumption of 65,700 t of zinc was about 13% lower than in August and 25% lower than in September 2004.

The Platts Metals Week average composite price for North American Special High Grade zinc increased to 67.89 cents per pound in September. The price was 8% (4.95 cents per pound) higher than in August and 38% (18.66 cents per pound) higher than in September 2004. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price increased to \$1,397.08 per metric ton of

zinc, an 8% increase compared with the August price, and 43% higher than that in September 2004. During September, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 29,650 t to 529,975 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in September, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was 3,710 t (approximately 4,090 short tons), with an approximate value of \$5.26 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

### Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for September 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, October 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005			
	January- December	July	August	September	January- September
<b>Production:</b>					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	739,000	66,900	71,500	65,200	566,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	713,000	64,500	68,900	62,800	545,000
Smelter, refined zinc	320,000	29,200 <sup>c</sup>	16,200 <sup>c</sup>	17,900 <sup>c</sup>	207,000 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Consumption:</b>					
Refined zinc, reported	421,000	31,300	33,700	34,800	303,000
Ores <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	545
Zinc-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	143,000
Copper-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	132,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	1,080
Total <sup>e</sup>	790,000	62,000	64,500	65,500	580,000
Apparent consumption, metal <sup>2</sup>	1,160,000	81,100	75,300	65,700	736,000 <sup>3</sup>
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer <sup>4</sup>	XX	6,390	7,010	7,470	XX
Consumer <sup>5</sup>	XX	56,700	56,300	56,400	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	73,300	73,600	74,100	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	31,500	2,600	3,680	3,710	14,200
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	55,800	48,400	NA	459,000 <sup>6</sup>
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	10,900	8,710	NA	72,000 <sup>6</sup>
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	16,400	17,600	NA	115,000 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Exports:</b>					
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	97	42	NA	703 <sup>6</sup>
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	1,250	1,260	NA	9,260 <sup>6</sup>
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	164,000	198,000	NA	477,000 <sup>6</sup>
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	4,110	5,960	NA	35,600 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Price:</b>					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,047.35	\$1,194.08	\$1,298.05	\$1,397.08	\$1,295.17
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	52.47	57.96	62.94	67.89	62.95

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

<sup>3</sup>Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

<sup>4</sup>Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

<sup>5</sup>Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

<sup>6</sup>Includes data through August only.

TABLE 2  
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>e, 1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks <sup>2</sup>	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>
2004:				
September	6,370	24,100	23,400	7,020
October	7,020	23,800	23,700	7,070
November	7,070	23,500	23,800	6,780
December	6,780	20,200	20,500	6,430
January-December	XX	320,000	321,000	XX
2005:				
January	6,430	24,600	21,200	9,860
February	9,860	25,600	24,500	11,000
March	11,000	22,700	24,000	9,760
April	9,760	23,400	23,800	9,420
May	9,420	23,900	25,800	7,470
June	7,470	23,700	24,500	6,670
July	6,670	29,200	29,200	6,710
August	6,710	16,200	16,000	6,900
September	6,900	17,900	17,400	7,360
January-September	XX	207,000	206,000	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC  
ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2004	2005			
	January- December <sup>2</sup>	July	August	September <sup>2</sup>	January- September
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	477,000	34,400	32,000	27,800	306,000
Other	167,000	11,000	9,600	7,200	97,900
Total	644,000	45,400	41,600	35,000	404,000
Brass and bronze	188,000	11,000	11,400	10,600	115,000
Zinc-base alloy	244,000	18,000	16,100	14,400	159,000
Other uses <sup>3</sup>	85,800	6,600	6,200	5,700	59,200
Grand total	1,160,000	81,100	75,300	65,700	736,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4  
AVERAGE MONTHLY ZINC PRICES<sup>1</sup>

Period	North American	LME <sup>2</sup> cash	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2004:			
September	49.23	44.22	974.83
October	53.31	48.28	1,064.49
November	54.81	49.68	1,095.18
December	58.53	53.52	1,179.83
January-December	52.47	47.51	1,047.35
2005:			
January	61.54	56.51	1,245.81
February	64.49	60.14	1,325.81
March	66.49	62.47	1,377.33
April	63.03	58.96	1,299.81
May	60.46	56.39	1,243.23
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
January-September	62.95	58.75	1,295.17

<sup>1</sup>Special High Grade.

<sup>2</sup>London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

Material	2004		2005 <sup>2</sup>			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	3,300	\$5,330	42	\$88	703	\$1,360
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	745,000	413,000	198,000	126,000	477,000	269,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	53,900	48,300	5,960	6,310	35,600	37,500
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	7,640	13,500	960	1,830	6,270	12,600
Oxide (gross weight)	14,400	19,800	1,260	2,140	9,260	15,100
Chloride (gross weight)	1,870	2,200	113	128	1,380	1,670
Sulfate (gross weight)	3,060	1,860	163	117	2,040	1,310
Compounds, other (gross weight)	194	711	77	72	759	629

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Data for September 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

Material	2004		2005 <sup>2</sup>			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	August		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	812,000	\$888,000	48,400	\$60,800	459,000	\$591,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	231,000	98,700	17,600	13,000	115,000	79,500
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	10,800	7,740	745	704	5,170	4,470
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	40,200	2,400	4,770	14,800	27,800
Oxide (gross weight)	103,000	89,000	8,710	10,600	72,000	84,000
Chloride (gross weight)	705	863	49	125	501	861
Sulfate (gross weight)	29,100	14,000	1,550	848	19,900	10,500
Compounds, other (gross weight)	4,660	4,230	454	358	4,290	3,870

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Data for September 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
STOCKPILE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2004:			
September	66,400	--	66,400
October	66,400	--	66,400
November	66,400	--	66,400
December	66,400	--	66,400
January-December	XX	31,500	XX
2005:			
January	66,400	20	66,300
February	66,300	738	66,400
March	65,600	--	66,400
April	65,600	220	65,400
May	65,400	301	65,100
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
January-September	XX	14,200	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
		August	Year to date		August	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	27,900	--	8,590	27,900	--	8,590
Ireland	17,700	--	8,700	17,700	--	8,700
Mexico	6,530	275	24,200	6,530	275	24,200
Peru	178,000	17,300	71,900	178,000	17,300	71,900
Other	877	20	1,170	877	20	1,170
Total	231,000	17,600	115,000	231,000	17,600	115,000
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	7,940	--	1	27,500	--	16,200
Brazil	26,400	4,120	27,600	26,400	4,120	27,800
Canada	501,000	28,100	320,000	501,000	28,100	320,000
China	35	--	--	16,500	--	876
Japan	--	--	--	690	--	--
Kazakhstan	2,310	--	--	2,310	--	--
Korea, Republic of	8,030	--	5,030	31,900	--	888
Mexico	123,000	16,200	92,400	123,000	16,200	92,400
Namibia	47,900	--	--	47,900	--	--
Peru	25,600	36	162	30,500	36	760
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	204	--	--	3,970	--	225
Total	743,000	48,400	445,000	812,000	48,400	459,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	16,100	1,370	9,760	16,100	1,370	9,760
Grand total	990,000	67,400	569,000	1,060,000	67,400	583,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	49,700	5,920	42,200	49,700	5,920	42,200
China	207	10	86	207	10	86
Italy	13,400	--	9,590	13,400	--	9,590
Japan	1,060	134	787	1,060	134	787
Mexico	33,200	2,190	15,300	33,200	2,190	15,300
Netherlands	4,700	345	3,440	4,700	345	3,440
Other	796	101	619	796	101	619
Total	103,000	8,710	72,000	103,000	8,710	72,000
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	10,800	745	5,170	10,800	745	5,170
Sheets	2,500	256	1,830	2,500	256	1,830
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	24,800	2,400	14,800	24,800	2,400	14,800

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Data for September 2005 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.